

5. The salvation of the lost is our chief business.

Lesson Applied

1 Publicans and sinners could not but feel that Jesus loved them. We never hear of them drawing near to the Pharisees. The world knows a thing or two.

2 Some people would rather stand around and find fault with the efforts of Christ like men and women for the saving of sinners, than to get to work themselves, even to-day.

3 Jesus Christ ate with sinners in his day. Why not try, O fellow Christians, Christ's methods on the sinners of to day?

4 The ninety and nine ought to be able to take care of themselves while the shepherd goes after the lost.

5 Jesus does not drive back the sheep astray, he carries it.

6 Astray is a sad condition for sheep or man. Brother, are you astray?

7 If angels rejoice, why should not men, when sinners repent?

8 The personal friendship of some good man or woman is what many a lost one needs.

9 But, he who seeks must be strong enough to lift up and carry the lost and not be dragged down to their level.

10 "Are you God's wife?" asked a little waif of a woman who gave him some food for his starving sick mother.

11 A richly dressed woman was going hurriedly around a corner on Broadway, when a little street arab ran plump against her and was knocked down. "Excuse me," said the lady as she picked him up from the side walk. "Say, misses," said the little fellow when the pain had stopped a little, "you can knock me down again, if you will talk that way."

12 A Christian worker found a poor lost woman dying in a garret. She went up to the poor, foul, diseased creature and throwing her arms about her neck and implanting a kiss on those lips which only the lips of lust had pressed since a child at her mother's knee, the Christian woman said, "Jesus loves you, he came to die that you might have eternal life." The dying woman said, "Many have told me that, but I never before believed they meant it. When a pure woman like you can love and caress a being so lost and wretched as I, I can believe that Jesus can love and save me too."

"And now abideth Faith, Hope, Love; these three. And the greatest of these is love." I Cor. 13: 13. (R. V.)

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WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT?

ALICE HARLEY

Before the Master commissioned Peter to feed his lambs, he asked him, "Lovest thou me more than these?" And Peter answered, "Yea, Lord, thou knowest I love thee."

The children are still lambs and just as precious to Jesus today as then; and it is of the utmost importance that one who is to feed them should love the Savior "more than these"—far more than anything on earth, more than life itself. In other words, the Sunday school superintendent should be consecrated and filled with the Holy Ghost. This is the first great essential qualification of a good superintendent. Aside from the pastor there is no officer in the local church, whose responsibility is equal to that of the S. S. superintendent. How great and inconceivable are the possibilities of the trust committed to his care.

It is in the S. S. that the future hope of the church lies. There it is that impressions

are made which will last thru-out life, and help to mould lives and shape characters which should become useful and true. The workers in the church in the days that are to come, with few exceptions, are affected by the influence of the superintendent; and their usefulness is largely determined by the wisdom and zeal with which he pursues his work. Too great care cannot then be exercised in the selection of men and women to this important office.

It is impossible, of course, to find a person for any position, who has all desirable qualities. Men are not made on that pattern. No organization, therefore, seeking some one to fill the office of superintendent needs to be discouraged because no one can be found suited in every particular. It must simply take the best it can get. It is well however, to have an ideal in mind, when choice is made of one. Surely the office of superintendent is as high as the deacon's office and almost as sacred as that of the elder. Should he not then possess equal qualifications, such as "aptness to teach, patience, gentleness, holiness, etc"?

Without the Holy Spirit no one is ready to be a teacher of God's Word. No matter how well trained he may be, how familiar he is with the truth he is to present; unless he has received the Holy Spirit, he is not prepared to teach.

The disciples had been with Christ for many months, lived in closest intimacy with him, received truth from his own lips, and were under his personal training; but they were bidden not to begin their work until they had received power from on high.

Our Divine Teacher-needed the baptism of the Holy Ghost before he went forth into active work. How much more do we need to be endued with the power of God before we dare enter the sacred nursery for the training of young plants for the Lord's garden.

Only the man or woman, who has the love of God shed abroad in the heart may hope to draw out the corresponding love in the hearts of the children and win them for Christ.

A superintendent, to be successful should never be discouraged; but should give life to the school, and infuse it with enthusiasm and energy. Nothing so deadens spiritual activity as discouragement, but on the other hand, "The joy of the Lord is our strength." As Paul exhorts us, he should hope continually and not weary in well-doing, for in due season he shall reap if he faint not.

A superintendent should be strong willed, but not self-willed. It is very difficult to keep an even poise in such matters. A leader fails if he is weak, and he fails no less if he is obstinate. A superintendent must decide many things for himself; he must have his own ideas and be able to act independently, but must not be unwilling to be counselled.

If he uses wisdom and the love that "suffereth long and is kind," he can govern his teachers that they will not be conscious of being ruled, and yet he can so hold the reins

of love that he can guide them without any trouble.

The superintendent should ever seek counsel of the pastor of the church. The pastor's wide experience, and his knowledge of the needs of the church make his advice and plans helpful.

An otherwise well qualified superintendent will fail, if he fails to preserve order. His first effort at good order is to secure punctuality. This cannot always be had, but he should at least make an effort to secure it, by always being punctual himself, and beginning in time in order to give no excuse to any for delay in arriving. Order is best obtained by a quiet but firm manner. Repeated calls and strikings of the bell develop indifference and do not produce order. After a call for order he should simply wait. This silent waiting will at length impress the school and bring it to silence.

A superintendent should have an aim in view, in doing his work. All aimless work is necessarily poor work, whatever may have been the zeal employed. This one great aim should be to bring souls to Christ, and develop Christian character.

While the modern S. S. movement began in an effort to reach those outside of the church, yet the S. S., as we see it to day, is too often merely a church nursery, managed solely with a view to promote the life of the local church itself; but in addition to the use of the S. S. as a church nursery, it is invaluable also as an evangelizing agency. The S. S. of to-day is successful just as it reaches out its arms unto all men. There is no school, in no matter how cultured a neighborhood, which may not reach out into the surrounding community and touch those who are not in the habit of church going. Every school may have in it, to some degree, a mission element, while there are some localities where the S. S. is the one influence available to reach the non-church goers, and thus proves to be a successful missionary agency. To have a school become this, the superintendent should do much outside work. He should be a pastor to his school, and make frequent calls. Probably not many superintendents make these calls, but it is a great mistake to neglect this phase of their duty. If they do neglect this they lose in their power to direct the school, and they miss a joy of service that can come in no other way.

It is desirable that he call on his teachers that he may understand them better, see their points of excellence, and their weakness and encourage them to better service.

But especially should the superintendent call on the pupils in order to show his interest in them, encourage them to attendance, and if possible win them for Christ. There are certain classes on whom he should call without fail. These are the sick, the afflicted, the newcomers and especially the inquiring. He should not take the work of the teachers out of their hands, but teacher and superintendent ought to work in conjunction in such matters, and the teacher may well inform